

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HJR 98

February 19, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Proposes amending Article I, Section 33, of the Constitution of Tennessee to remove “punishment for crime” as an exception to the prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude and establish that nothing will prohibit an inmate from working when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Up to \$10,000/FY22-23*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee, following passage by two successive General Assemblies, the proposed amendatory language is submitted to the people for a vote at the next general election in which a Governor is to be chosen.
- The proposed constitutional amendment language received its first General Assembly passage with Senate Joint Resolution 159 on April 22, 2019.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-5-211(b), at least five days before the beginning of early voting, the county election commission shall either publish a sample ballot in a newspaper of general circulation or mail the sample ballot to every active registered voter.
- The requirement to add this constitutional amendment to the 2022 general election ballot will increase the size of the sample ballot to be published and subsequently increase printing costs.
- Based on information provided by the Secretary of State, the total statewide mandatory increase in local government expenditures is reasonably estimated as an amount up to \$10,000 occurring in FY22-23.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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